

CLINICO EPIDEMIOLOGICAL, MYCOLOGICAL STUDY OF CHRONIC DERMATOPHYTOSIS

ABSTRACT

BACKGROUND :

Chronic dermatophytosis is increasing in an alarming proportion all over India causing psycho-social and economic burden to the patients. This study was undertaken to understand the possible factors predisposing to chronic dermatophytosis, various clinical presentations, most common etiological agent and its clinicomycological correlation in patients attending the Mycology OPD, Department of Dermatology, Venerology and Leprosy in Rajiv Gandhi Govt General Hospital, Chennai.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES:

To study the epidemiological aspects, various clinical presentations, associations, to isolate the various etiological agents and to study the Clinico mycological correlation of chronic dermatophytosis are selected for the study.

MATERIALS AND METHODS:

The study was conducted in Mycology section, Department of Dermatology, Madras Medical College / Rajiv Gandhi Government General Hospital .Patients attending or referred to Mycology Outpatient department who had the disease for more than 6 months duration in spite of having completed treatment with or without recurrence. Detailed history, physical examination, direct microscopy and culture was done in all patients.

RESULT :

100 patients with chronic dermatophytosis of duration more than 6 months were studied. 70% were females. Maximum number of patients were in the age group of third and fourth decade. 30% were housewives. 68% patients have history of family members being affected. 8% patients had contact with animals. 31% had associated diabetes mellitus which is found to be most common. 46% patients were using topical steroid as part of treatment. 35% of patients had both *T. cruris* and *T. Corporisris*. Overall tinea corporis most common seen in 94% of patients. KOH positivity was observed in 83 patients *Trichophyton mentagrophytes* was the most common species isolated in 63.9% of patients with 49.5 % of patients had inflammatory lesions. Various atypical presentations observed in the study are eczematous, psoriasiform, pustular, vesicular pseudoimbricata and erythrodermic forms.

CONCLUSION:

The exact reason for the shift of the organism from *T.rubrum* which has been the most common organism implicated in chronic dermatophytosis worldwide to *T.mentagrophytes* remains an enigma which necessitates further studies on the environmental factors ,mycological, antifungal susceptibility, molecular and genomic aspects of dermatophytosis. Avoidance of topical steroids and strict adherence to the treatment schedule is very important to prevent the development of chronicity in dermatophyte infection. Detailed study about the various aspects of fungal resistance and also the genetic, host and environmental factors is needed further to curtail the occurrence of this menace.

Key words: *T.rubrum*, *T.mentagrophytes*, chronic dermatophytosis, pseudoimbricata